

REMARKS

The Official Action of February 24, 2005 has been considered.

It will be noted that the cap of West, as shown in Figs. 2 and 5 does not have a lower end 120a that is adapted to receive the post therein, in close engagement relative thereto; rather, the portion 120a of West as shown in Figs. 2 and 5 fits over the outer periphery of a ring.

Further in the embodiment of Fig. 4, in which a large post is used, no ring is used therewith, nor would it be fitting or is it suggested to use a ring therewith, outside the post, below and against the cap.

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize certain features not taught in West. Specifically, it will be noted that the cap skirt is recited as having an interior surface and an exterior surface, with the interior surface of the skirt being adapted to be disposed over the top of the post to receive the post therein, in snug fitting close engagement relative thereto.

Thus, with respect to Fig. 4 of the instant application for example, the skirt 25 is shown to be in snug fitting engagement relative to the upper end of the post, as is also recited in the specification.

Additionally, it will be noted that claim 1 requires that the ring have a skirt that is sized so as to be spaced outwardly of an end of the post, as can be seen most clearly with respect to Figs. 11 and 12 of the instant application. Thus, the vertical portion or skirt 52 as shown in Fig. 11, and the vertical portion 42 as shown in Fig. 12 are spaced outwardly from the post 31, defining a channel about the post 31. Additionally, ring skirt is recited as having an interior surface that is sized to engage the exterior surface of the skirt of the cap in snug fitting close engagement therewith. Thus, the skirt 52 of the ring of Fig. 11, as well the skirt 42 of the ring of Fig. 12 are each sized to accommodate the skirt 25 of the cap, so that the ring, whether it be a cap ring or a base ring, is sized to accommodate the cap skirt, whether or not it is used as a cap ring or a base ring.

Clearly, West has no such feature. While the embodiment of Fig. 5 of West does employ an upper and a lower ring, similarly configured to each other, it will be noted that such is not for use with a cap, in any respect, in that the post 220 of Fig. 5 of West extends from a lower deck 224 to the underside of a roof 228, not allowing for any cap

thereon, and certainly containing no suggestion of a cap having a skirt to fit into a ring as recited in claim 1.

It will be noted that all of the remaining claims in this application depend from claim 1 or from another claim that in turn is dependent from claim 1.

Reconsideration and allowance of all of the remaining claims of this application, as amended, is respectfully solicited.